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April 15 2009 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final April 15, 2009

Present: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vice Chair Vita Cohen, Stacy Davison, Chair Nick Minton, Judson Pierce Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Jorge Loayza

Open Forum – Our guest this evening was an Arlington resident, Farjam Mohtadi. She gave detailed information regarding the Bahá’í Faith and the sufferings of the people in Iran. She spoke of the injustices of seven leaders who were arrested in February and the recent arrest of a female news reporter, all being held on charges of apostasy and other false accusations. She also spoke of the Bahá’í life in America. Chair Minton agreed that their problems should be addressed and asked how the commission could help. She said that education and continued interest of their struggles is needed and requested the AHRC to write letters to our state senators and representatives asking for support of the resolutions that are coming before them. Chair Minton agreed and assured her of AHRC support.

Follow up later in meeting – Chair Minton will write a letter for the commission as a group to Senators Kerry and Kennedy, and also to Rep. Markey, urging their support. Commissioner Briggett thinks this is an opportunity to make a difference and suggested a future dialogue be planned around this subject. A motion was made: *“that the Commission would urge support of resolutions to the House and Senate.”* Commissioner Shea suggested commissioners also write their own letter of support; Commissioner Pierce will write a letter of support to the Advocate.

Review of March Minutes – Chair Minton motioned to accept the March Minutes as amended

Networks and Coalitions –

MAHRC – There was no meeting this month - Commissioner Sweeney will alert the commission of details of the next meeting, that should be held on the 2nd Friday of next month at the Medford City Hall.

(Please turn over page)

Incidents and Complaints –

There has been no response from the recent complaint form that was mailed last month.

Subcommittee Reports –

Holocaust Dialogue – Commissioner Baron has arranged the dialogue presented by Dr. Margo Selig-Blank entitled *“Lest we forget: Memories and Lessons of the Holocaust”* for May 21st at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Detailed plans will be sent to the commissioners by e-mail.

Anniversary of Gay Marriage Dialogue – planned for September 17th – details forthcoming

Schools – no report.

Policies/Procedures – no report

Rapid Response –no report

Other Business –

In lieu of our monthly meeting the Dialogue on the Holocaust will be held on May 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Minton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant